

THIRD SUNDAY OF EASTER

Easter People Rejoice

April 13 & 14, 2024

AS WE GATHER

Luke reports that at seeing the resurrected Jesus, the disciples “disbelieved for joy” (24:41). The theme of rejoicing is woven throughout the Scriptures. The psalmist exhorts: “Shout for joy to God, all the earth; sing the glory of His name; give to Him glorious praise!” (66:1–2). The prophet Isaiah assures God’s people that they will have cause for rejoicing as he writes: “For the LORD comforts Zion; . . . joy and gladness will be found in her, thanksgiving and the voice of song” (51:3). Paul writes to people who know of the glorious resurrection of Jesus Christ on that first Easter day: “Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, Rejoice” (Philippians 4:4). The season of Easter is a time for joyous praise that begins now!

Reception of Holy Communion: If you are planning to receive Christ's supper today, please read through the words of exhortation in the fellowship folder. For members, it is a good review of important spiritual matters for gathering at the table. For guests, it explains our stance on confession of faith, doctrinal unity, and proper spiritual preparation to receive the Supper for your benefit.

WELCOME

“O death, where is your victory? O death, where is your sting?”

The sting of death is sin, and the power of sin is the law.

But thanks be to God, who gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ.

1 Corinthians 15:55-57

HANDSHAKES & HUGS

✠ PREPARATION ✠

OPENING HYMN #474 “Alleluia! Jesus Is Risen”

Alleluia! Jesus is risen! Trumpets resounding in glorious light!

Splendor, the Lamb, Heaven forever! Oh, what a miracle God has in sight!

Refrain: Jesus is risen and we shall arise: Give God the glory! Alleluia!

Walking the way, Christ in the center Telling the story to open our eyes;

Breaking our bread, Giving us glory: Jesus our blessing, our constant surprise.

Refrain

1 continued

Jesus the vine, We are the branches; Life in the Spirit the fruit of the tree;
Heaven to earth, Christ to the people, Gift of the future now flowing to me.

Refrain

Weeping, be gone; Sorrow, be silent: Death put asunder, and Easter is bright.

Cherubim sing: “O grave, be open!” Clothe us in wonder, adorn us in light.

Refrain

City of God, Easter forever, Golden Jerusalem, Jesus the Lamb,

River of life, Saints and archangels, Sing with creation to God the I AM! **Refrain**

(Rise)

INVOCATION & OPENING SENTENCES

Pastor: In the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

People: Amen.

Pastor: This is the day that the LORD has made;

People: let us rejoice and be glad in it.

Pastor: Christ being raised from the dead will never die again;

People: death no longer has dominion over Him.

Pastor: Christ has risen from the dead.

People: God the Father has crowned Him with glory and honor.

Pastor: He has given Him dominion over the works of His hands;

People: He has put all things under His feet.

CONFESSION & ABSOLUTION

Pastor: Let us now confess our sin to God, our merciful Father.

People: Almighty God, Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, maker of all things, judge of all people, we admit and confess our sinfulness. We are by nature sinful, and we have not always lived as your thankful and joyful people. We have indeed turned away from one another in our thinking, speaking, and doing. We have done the evil you forbid and have not done the good you demand. We do repent and are truly sorry for these our sins. Have mercy on us, gracious Father; forgive us all that is past, blot out our sins, and with the power of the Holy Spirit, direct our lives so that we serve you in true faithfulness. Grant us steadfastness among all the changes of this world and build your kingdom among us here through Jesus Christ, our Lord.

Pastor: God has promised forgiveness of sins to those who repent and turn to Him. May He keep you in His grace by the Holy Spirit and grant you a victorious life on earth and finally a triumphant life with Him in heaven forever. As a called and ordained servant of Christ, I forgive you your sins in the name of the Father and of the ☩ Son and of the Holy Spirit. As well-loved Easter people, rejoice and be glad! You are free indeed!

People: Amen.

HYMN OF PRAISE #478 “The Day of Resurrection”

The day of resurrection! Earth, tell it out abroad,
The Passover of gladness, The Passover of God.
From death to life eternal, From sin’s dominion free,
Our Christ has brought us over With hymns of victory.

Let hearts be purged of evil That we may see aright
The Lord in rays eternal Of resurrection light
And, list’ning to His accents, May hear, so calm and plain,
His own “All hail!” and, hearing, May raise the victor strain.

Now let the heav’ns be joyful, Let earth its song begin,
Let all the world keep triumph And all that is therein.
Let all things, seen and unseen, Their notes of gladness blend;
For Christ the Lord has risen, Our joy that has no end!

All praise to God the Father, All praise to God the Son,
All praise to God the Spirit, Eternal Three in One!
Let all the ransomed number Fall down before the throne
And honor, pow’r, and glory Ascribe to God alone!

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Pastor: The Lord be with you.

People: And also with you.

Pastor: Let us pray. O God, through the humiliation of your Son you raised up the fallen world. Grant to your faithful people, rescued from the peril of everlasting death, perpetual gladness and eternal joys; through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

People: Amen.

(Be seated)

☩ WORD ☩

FIRST READING *Acts 3:11–21* (Peter preaches in the heart of Jerusalem.)

¹¹While he clung to Peter and John, all the people, utterly astounded, ran together to them in the portico called Solomon's. ¹²And when Peter saw it he addressed the people: “Men of Israel, why do you wonder at this, or why do you stare at us, as though by our own power or piety we have made him walk? ¹³The God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob, the God of our fathers, glorified his servant Jesus, whom you delivered over and denied in the presence of Pilate, when he had decided to release him. ¹⁴But you denied the Holy and Righteous One, and asked for a murderer to be granted to you, ¹⁵and you killed the Author of life, whom God raised from the dead. To this we are witnesses. ¹⁶And his name—by faith in his name—has made this man strong whom you see and know, and the faith that is through Jesus has given the man this perfect health in the presence of you all. ¹⁷“And now, brothers, I know that you acted in ignorance, as did also your rulers. ¹⁸But what God foretold by the mouth of all the prophets, that his Christ would suffer, he thus fulfilled. ¹⁹Repent therefore, and turn back, that your sins may be blotted out, ²⁰that times of refreshing may come from the presence of the Lord, and that he may send the Christ appointed for you, Jesus, ²¹whom heaven must receive until the time for restoring all the things about which God spoke by the mouth of his holy prophets long ago.

Pastor: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

EPISTLE *1 John 3:1–7* (We are God’s children now.)

See what kind of love the Father has given to us, that we should be called children of God; and so we are. The reason why the world does not know us is that it did not know him. ²Beloved, we are God's children now, and what we will be has not yet appeared; but we know that when he appears we shall be like him, because we shall see him as he is. ³And everyone who thus hopes in him purifies himself as he is pure. ⁴Everyone who makes a practice of sinning also practices lawlessness; sin is lawlessness. ⁵You know that he appeared in order to take away sins, and in him there is no sin. ⁶No one who abides in him keeps on sinning; no one who keeps on sinning has either seen him or known him. ⁷Little children, let no one deceive you. Whoever practices righteousness is righteous, as he is righteous.

Pastor: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

5:00 6-8 Grades “Once Upon a Tree” & “Elijah and Joshua”

(Rise)

HOLY GOSPEL *Luke 24:36–49* (The disciples are witnesses of the risen Lord.)

Pastor: The Holy Gospel according to St. Luke, the twenty-fourth chapter.

People: Glory to you, O Lord.

³⁶As they were talking about these things, Jesus himself stood among them, and said to them, “Peace to you!” ³⁷But they were startled and frightened and thought they saw a spirit. ³⁸And he said to them, “Why are you troubled, and why do doubts arise in your hearts? ³⁹See my hands and my feet, that it is I myself. Touch me, and see. For a spirit does not have flesh and bones as you see that I have.” ⁴⁰And when he had said this, he showed them his hands and his feet. ⁴¹And while they still disbelieved for joy and were marveling, he said to them, “Have you anything here to eat?” ⁴²They gave him a piece of broiled fish, ⁴³and he took it and ate before them. ⁴⁴Then he said to them, “These are my words that I spoke to you while I was still with you, that everything written about me in the Law of Moses and the Prophets and the Psalms must be fulfilled.” ⁴⁵Then he opened their minds to understand the Scriptures, ⁴⁶and said to them, “Thus it is written, that the Christ should suffer and on the third day rise from the dead, ⁴⁷and that repentance for the forgiveness of sins should be in his name to all nations, beginning from Jerusalem. ⁴⁸You are witnesses of these things. ⁴⁹And behold, I am sending the promise of my Father upon you. But stay in the city until you are clothed with power from on high.”

Pastor: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

People: Praise to you, O Christ.

(Be seated)

CHILDREN’S SONG & CHILDREN’S MESSAGE

“Jesus Rose for You and Me” (*tune: Jesus Loves Me*)

Jesus rose for you and me “Alleluia” let us sing.
Someday we will live with Him “Alleluia” let us sing.
Sing, Alleluia! Sing, Alleluia! Sing, Alleluia!
He rose for you and me.

Jesus loves me this I know For the Bible tells me so
Little ones to Him belong They are weak, but He is strong.
Yes, Jesus loves me. Yes, Jesus loves me. Yes, Jesus loves me.
The Bible tells me so.

SERMON HYMN #483 “With High Delight Let Us Unite”

With high delight Let us unite In songs of great jubilation.
Ye pure in heart, All bear your part, Sing Jesus Christ, our salvation.
To set us free Forever, He Is ris’n and sends To all earth’s ends
Good News to save ev’ry nation.

True God, He first From death has burst Forth into life, all subduing.
His enemy Doth vanquished lie; His death has been death’s undoing.
“And yours shall be Like victory O’er death and grace,” Saith He, who gave
His life for us, life renewing.

Let praises ring; Give thanks, and bring To Christ our Lord adoration.
His honor speed By word and deed To ev’ry land, ev’ry nation.
So shall His love Give us above, From misery And death set free,
All joy and full consolation.

SERMON

(Rise)

OFFERTORY

Create in me a clean heart, O God, and renew a right spirit within me.
Cast me not away from Thy presence, and take not Thy Holy Spirit from me.
Restore unto me the joy of Thy salvation, and uphold me with Thy free spirit.
Amen.

NICENE CREED

People: I believe in one God, the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth and of all things visible and invisible. And in one Lord Jesus Christ, the only-begotten Son of God, begotten of His Father before all worlds, God of God, Light of Light, very God of very God, begotten, not made, being of one substance with the Father, by whom all things were made; who for us men and for our salvation came down from heaven and was incarnate by the Holy Spirit of the virgin Mary and was made man;

and was crucified also for us under Pontius Pilate. He suffered and was buried. And the third day He rose again according to the Scriptures and ascended into heaven and sits at the right hand of the Father. And He will come again with glory to judge both the living and the dead, whose kingdom will have no end.

And I believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord and giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who with the Father and the Son together is worshiped and glorified, who spoke by the prophets. And I believe in one holy Christian and apostolic Church, I acknowledge one Baptism for the remission of sins, and I look for the resurrection of the dead and the life ☩ of the world to come. Amen.

OFFERINGS

As your offering is collected, **please sign our fellowship folder** located at the end of the pew. If you are a visitor, please leave your address and phone. After you are finished, please pass the folder along to others in your pew, and return it to the center aisle. You may check the folder to see names of those to greet after the service.

(Rise)

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

Pastor: Let us pray for the whole Church of God in Christ Jesus and for all people according to their needs.

Lord God, in your presence we find fullness of joy, and by your right hand, Christ Jesus, you win and deliver peace forevermore. In the midst of this world's sins and sorrows, give us peace in the knowledge of His salvation and confident hope in the resurrection of the dead. Lord, in your mercy,

People: hear our prayer.

Pastor: Heavenly Father, by the incarnation of your Son and the reconciliation of His cross, you have made us your children and gathered us into your Holy Church. Sustain the preaching of your Holy Word and its message of repentance for the forgiveness of sins in Jesus' name among us and all the nations of the world. Lord, in your mercy,

People: hear our prayer.

Pastor: Give peace, Lord, to our homes and enliven them by Christ's resurrected life. Let the forgiveness of sins reign among husbands and wives, parents and children. Assure those who live alone that they, too, are Your children, upheld by your right hand. Lord, in your mercy,

People: hear our prayer.

Pastor: Almighty God, preserve our nation and its leaders, especially Joseph, our president, and Tony, our governor. Preserve order and decency in this fallen world by their hands and restrain the sins and deceptions of the lawless, that we may practice righteousness while awaiting the eternal peace promised in Christ's wounds alone. Lord, in your mercy,

People: hear our prayer.

Pastor: God of all comfort, you have compassion on those who are afflicted. Remember and have mercy on Ruth, Karen, Dick, Wendy, Michael, Margie, Anna, Eugene, Charlene, Danielle, Marlene, RoseMarie, Dorothy, Janice, Marga, Ardis, Noah, Guy, Mike, Jill, Janet, Vern, Cathy, Helga, June, Shirley, Sarah and all those in need of your healing and deliverance. Lord, in your mercy,

People: hear our prayer.

Pastor: Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, by your Son's crucifixion all sins have been blotted out. Send us now the blessed refreshment of His bodily presence in the Sacrament of the Altar, and make us fit partakers in repentance for the forgiveness of our sins. Lord, in your mercy,

People: hear our prayer.

Pastor: Into your hands, O Lord, we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in your mercy; through Jesus Christ, our Lord.

People: Amen.

☩ SACRAMENT ☩

PREFACE

Pastor: The Lord be with you.

People: And also with you.

Pastor: Lift up your hearts.

People: We lift them to the Lord.

Pastor: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

People: It is right to give Him thanks and praise.

PROPER PREFACE

Pastor: It is truly good, right, and salutary that we should at all times and in all places give thanks to you, Lord, our God, for, like as a Father, you have had mercy on us and given your only-begotten Son for our salvation. Pour out upon us the gift of your Spirit, that we may receive your blessings with true thanksgiving. Grant that we may receive the body and blood of our Lord as a guarantee of our salvation and as a foretaste of the feast to come in your eternal kingdom. To you alone, O Father, be all glory, honor, and praise, together with the Son and Holy Spirit, now and forever.

People: Amen.

SANCTUS

Page 208

Holy, holy, holy Lord God of Sabaoth adored;
Heav'n and earth with full acclaim shout the glory of your name.
Sing hosanna in the highest, sing hosanna to the Lord;
Truly blest is He who comes in the name of the Lord!

THE LORD'S PRAYER

Our Father who art in heaven, hallowed be Thy name, Thy kingdom come, Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven; give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For Thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever and ever. Amen.

THE WORDS OF OUR LORD

Pastor: Our Lord Jesus Christ, on the night when He was betrayed, took bread, and when He had given thanks, He broke it and gave it to the disciples and said: "Take, eat; this is My \times body, which is given for you. This do in remembrance of Me." In the same way also He took the cup after supper, and when He had given thanks, He gave it to them, saying: "Drink of it, all of you; this cup is the new testament in My \times blood, which is shed for you for the forgiveness of sins. This do, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of Me."

AGNUS DEI

Page 210

O Jesus Christ, true Lamb of God, You take the sin of the world away;
O Jesus Christ, true Lamb of God, Have mercy on us, Lord, we pray.

O Jesus Christ, true Lamb of God, You take the sin of the world away;
Have mercy on us, Jesus Christ, And grant us peace, O Lord, we pray.

(Be seated)

DISTRIBUTION HYMNS

HYMN #633 "At the Lamb's High Feast We Sing"

At the Lamb's high feast we sing Praise to our victorious King.
Who has washed us in the tide Flowing from His piercèd side. Alleluia!

Praise we Him, whose love divine Gives His sacred blood for wine,
Gives His body for the feast--Christ the victim, Christ the priest. Alleluia!

Where the paschal blood is poured, Death's dread angel sheathes the sword:
Israel's hosts triumphant go Through the wave that drowns the foe. Alleluia!

Praise we Christ, whose blood was shed, Paschal victim, paschal bread;
With sincerity and love Eat we manna from above. Alleluia!

Mighty Victim from the sky, Hell's fierce pow'rs beneath You lie;
You have conquered in the fight, You have brought us life and light. Alleluia!

Now no more can death appall, Now no more the grave enthrall;
You have opened paradise, And Your saints in You shall rise. Alleluia!

Easter triumph, Easter joy! This alone can sin destroy;
From sin's pow'r, Lord, set us free, Newborn souls in You to be. Alleluia!

Father, who the crown shall give, Savior, by whose death we live,
Spirit, guide through all our days; Three in One, Your name we praise. Alleluia!

HYMN #737 "Rejoice, My Heart, Be Glad and Sing"

Rejoice, my heart, be glad and sing, A cheerful trust maintain;
For God, the source of ev'rything, Your portion shall remain.

He is your treasure, He your joy, Your life and light and Lord,
Your counselor when doubts annoy, Your shield and great reward.

Why spend the day in blank despair, In restless thought the night?
On your Creator cast your care; He makes your burdens light.

Did not His love and truth and pow'r Guard ev'ry childhood day?
And did He not in threat'ning hour Turn dreaded ills away?

He only will with patience chide, His rod falls gently down;
and all your sins He casts aside In ocean depths to drown.

His wisdom never plans in vain Nor falters nor mistakes.
All that His counsels may ordain A blessed ending makes.

Upon your lips, then, lay your hand, And trust His guiding love;
Then like a rock your peace shall stand Here and in Heav'n above.

HYMN #744 "Amazing Grace"

Amazing grace how sweet the sound That saved a wretch like me!
I once was lost but now am found, Was blind but now I see!

The Lord has promised good to me, His Word my hope secures;
He will my shield and portion be As long as life endures.

Through many dangers, toils, and snares I have already come;
His grace has brought me safe thus far, His grace will lead me home.

Yes, when this flesh and heart shall fail And mortal life shall cease,
Amazing grace shall then prevail In heaven's joy and peace.

When we've been there ten thousand years, Bright shining as the sun,
We've no less days to sing God's praise Than when we'd first begun.

COMMON DISMISSAL

(Rise)

POST-COMMUNION COLLECT

Pastor: Let us pray. Blessed are you, heavenly Father, for you have once again
fed and nourished us at your Table through the body and blood of your
Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord. Strengthen us so that we may continue to
proclaim your love to all the world and keep us to your eternal
kingdom, where you live and reign with the Son and the Holy Spirit, one
God, now and forever.

People: Amen.

BENEDICTION

Pastor: The Lord bless you and keep you. The Lord make His face shine on you
and be gracious to you. The Lord look upon you with favor and ✠ give
you peace.

People: Amen.

Pastor: He is risen.

People: He is risen indeed, alleluia!

CLOSING HYMN #475 "Good Christian Friends, Rejoice and Sing"

Good Christian friends, rejoice and sing! Now is the triumph of our King!
To all the world glad news we bring: Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

The Lord of life is ris'n this day; Bring flow'rs of song to strew His way;
Let all the world rejoice and say: Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

Praise we in songs of victory That love, that life which cannot die,
And sing with hearts uplifted high: Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

Your name we bless, O risen Lord, And sing today with one accord
The life laid down, the life restored. Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

Preacher & Liturgist

Lectors

Organist

Pastor Josh Grotelueschen

Jodi Drew, Krystal Wilson

Deaconess Carole King

Creative Worship for the Lutheran Parish, Series B, Quarter 2. Copyright © 2023 Concordia Publishing House. All rights reserved.
Used by permission.